

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

01 With reference initially to Figures 1-5, the crate 10 in the exemplary embodiment is a one-piece molded plastic construction and has a peripheral wall 12 that includes a pair of side walls 14, 16 and a pair of end walls 18, 20. The peripheral wall 12 is of uniform height, extending from a crate bottom 22 to an intermittent or discontinuous top surface 24. The latter is created by a series of U-shaped cut-outs 26 that are spaced about the peripheral wall, with six such cut-outs in each of the respective side walls 14, 16 and two in each of the respective end walls 18, 20. The cut-outs 26 reduce the weight of the crate and also provide good visibility with respect to labels on individual bottles in the crate. In this regard, the cut-outs 26 are centered on individual bottle support platforms formed in the crate bottom, with two mutually perpendicular cut-outs for the support platforms in the corners of the crate. Each cut-out in the side and end walls has a pair of inclined, substantially straight sides 28, 30 that extend downwardly from the discontinuous top surface 24 to a shelf or ledge 32 that separates the peripheral wall into upper and lower portions. The lower portion is formed as a solid continuous band about the periphery of the crate, with interruptions only in the end walls where handle cut-outs 34 extend from the crate bottom 22 upwardly to handle bars 36 that allow the crate to be grasped at opposite ends. The lower portion is of single wall thickness only, as best seen in Figures 5, 6 and 9.
